

HIGHLAND FALLS-FORT MONTGOMERY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to urge this House to correct a broken impact aid formula that unfairly limits the Federal funding received by local school districts in military communities.

A significant portion of the students I represent in Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Central School District are children of military families living at West Point. Impact Aid funding complications have Highland Falls struggling to preserve its full curriculum for students. The Impact Aid funding shortfall leaves the local community surrounding West Point facing major property tax increases.

This is not the way the Federal Government should be treating the families of Highland Falls and West Point. Impact aid schools need and deserve consistent Federal support. They are not getting that through the current Impact Aid formula.

I urge this House to pass the Impact Aid Update Act, a bill I introduced to correct the outdated cap that is restricting Impact Aid funding to Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Central School District and other Impact Aid schools.

I also call on this House to pass H.R. 390, a bill I am cosponsoring to improve the Impact Aid program. This Congress needs to permanently fix Impact Aid funding formulas so that local school districts like Highland Falls throughout the country have the full resources they need to teach our children.

VICTIM-ACTIVATED LANDMINE ABOLITION ACT

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, yesterday, Congressman PHIL ENGLISH and I introduced H.R. 6178, the Victim-Activated Landmine Abolition Act.

Our Nation is the global leader in funding for landmine clearance, mine risk education, and mine survivors. The U.S. was the first nation to call for a comprehensive ban on antipersonnel landmines in 1994, and we have not exported them since 1992, produced them since 1997, or use them since 1991.

In Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere, victim-activated landmines have killed and maimed U.S. and coalition troops. They indiscriminately threaten lives in more than 80 countries, and they do not distinguish between an enemy combatant and a U.S. soldier, child, farmer, or refugee.

Today, the U.S. has acquired reliable technology that enables all such weapons to be equipped with man-in-the-loop targeting and triggering capabilities.

We no longer need to procure or design landmines that are victim-activated. Let the U.S. set the example for other countries in banning the procurement of victim-activated landmines and weapons. I encourage my colleagues to join me as a cosponsor of H.R. 6178.

BROOKLYN ALLYSON—DAUGHTER OF TEXAS

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I have news, good news. A child is born, a girl.

Brooklyn Allyson Reaves arrived in the summer heat of Austin, Texas, August 18, 2006, at 7 pounds, 13 ounces. Her parents, Kim and Derek Reaves, and her brother, Barrett Houston, are all proud of this new family member.

Brooklyn is in the sunrise of her life. May her days be long, may she see good days of happiness and health, days of doing service for others, days filled with a passion for liberty and righteous justice, days with a love for her heritage and her country, and days with a commitment to her Maker; so that when she reaches the sunset of life, she will have been a good citizen, a good patriot, and a good servant of her Lord.

Every time a child is born, the Almighty is making a bet on the future of humanity. Kids are our greatest of all national resources.

So, Madam Speaker, the angels in heaven may be singing with joy at the arrival of Brooklyn, but they cannot be as happy or as proud as I am, because Brooklyn is my new granddaughter.

And that's just the way it is.

SHOCKED AT HOW AWFUL IRAQ IS

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, the Iraq war has gone from shock and awe to shocked at how awful it is.

On the heels of the public disclosure of the NIE estimates, today's Washington Post reports that the Baghdad Police College was so poorly constructed it might need to be demolished.

Special Inspector for Iraq Reconstruction said, "This is the most essential civil security project in the country. It is a failure. The Baghdad Police Academy is a disaster."

There are foundation problems, tile floors are warped beyond repair, faucets leak, toilet waste flooding all over the second and third floors.

The Parsons Corporation did such a bad job with the \$75 million in U.S. taxpayer money it was awarded to build the new facility, the whole facility may need to be torn down. The Parsons Corporation received a \$1 billion contract.

\$12 billion gone, wasted, unaccounted for in Iraq. But what is \$12.5 billion among friends? That wasted money fol-

lows a long line of other costly mistakes, including this Congress's refusal to hold anybody accountable.

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HUGO CHAVEZ AND THE AMERICAN CONSUMER

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, Hugo Chavez, dictator of Venezuela, gave a speech at the United Nations last week in which he lambasted the United States and denigrated President Bush. Chavez is little more than a comical autocrat on an anti-American public relations tour, but it is interesting that the American public has channeled their wrath into their consumer purchasing, moving to boycott Citgo, the Venezuelan national gas company.

Indeed, on Wednesday, 7-Eleven reacted to growing bad publicity by announcing it would not renew a 20-year contract with Citgo. That is about 2,100 gas stations off the books for Citgo. The rest will be targets of an angry American public's spontaneous boycott of Venezuelan oil.

All of us are working here in Congress to promote America's oil independence. All of us should do what 7-Eleven is doing by boycotting Citgo gas stations.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL AIMS TO BAN INTERNET GAMING

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, Congress is waiting for the Republican leadership to bring the Department of Defense authorization bill to the floor for a vote.

So what's holding it up? Believe it or not, the Republican leadership wants to add a provision to the defense bill.

To help the troops? No.

To add to their salaries? No.

To help us buy equipment for them so they will have state of the art equipment? No.

It's a provision to ban Internet gaming. And if you guessed that, you are absolutely right. A ban on Internet gaming in the defense bill. How ridiculous is that? At a time when we have brave American men and women fighting and dying in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Republican leadership is more worried about Americans playing poker on-line than in protecting our troops in the field.

The Republicans talk about patriotism and supporting our fighting men and women, but when it comes to voting for our Nation's Defense Department, they are more interested in banning Internet gaming than they are in providing what our troops need in the field of battle.

This is a disgrace. Americans should be outraged and we should demand that